

1) I've spoken with several residents in the area that feel that their sicknesses - or those of their loved ones - are due to the emission of chloroprene from the Denka plant.

Scientific research shows Denka Performance Elastomer's operations do not pose any additional health risks to the surrounding community. A published peer-reviewed study that tracked more than 15,000 workers in Neoprene plants across the world, including 1,400 from the LaPlace facility, found no increased incidence of cancer deaths among them since the 1940s. In addition, cancer incidence data collected by the Louisiana Tumor Registry shows there are no significant increases in the cancers suggested to be related to chloroprene exposure in St. John the Baptist Parish or the census tracts bordering the facility.

Denka Performance Elastomer purchased its Neoprene production facility in LaPlace, LA in November 2015, but the facility has been producing Neoprene for decades under previous ownership. The facility's operations are regulated under permits issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Representatives of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Louisiana Department of Health have also stated the facility's operations do not pose a health risk to the community.

2) I mention that a 2010 IRIS assessment of chloroprene found the chemical to be much more dangerous than previously thought, and specifically noted that it increased the rates of leukemia, lung cancer, kidney cancer and liver cancer in people

The 2010 Integrated Risk Information System Toxicological Review of Chloroprene suggested a revised Inhalation Unit Risk for chloroprene exposure for a 70-year lifetime, which makes it inappropriate to compare with instantaneous or daily average monitoring results. DPE asserts that the study was based on incomplete and flawed data. Notwithstanding, DPE began working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide additional information and correct the suggestion as soon as the company became aware of it after its use in the 2011 National Air Toxics Assessment report released in December 2015. Further, the 2010 Review does not suggest that chloroprene causes leukemia or kidney cancer, nor does the accepted scientific literature. Cancer incidence data compiled by the Louisiana Tumor Registry in St. John the Baptist Parish shows no increased incidence of the cancers mentioned in the report in the area surrounding the facility.

3) It is been previously reported by myself and others that Denka's intent was to install equipment that would reduce its emissions by 85%. I mention this in my piece. Has the company updated this plan in any way?

DPE voluntarily developed and agreed to a plan with the Department of Environmental Quality to install several major emissions reduction projects at its LaPlace facility in January 2017 despite the company's compliance with existing permits. All projects outlined in the voluntary plan were completed on schedule by the end of 2017 at a total cost of over \$35 million, and continued to be optimized and improved in the first months of 2018. DPE is currently evaluating its total emissions for 2018, and expects that the period following the final adjustments to the new equipment will very nearly meet its 85 percent reduction estimate once calculations have been completed.

4) I mention that recent EPA testing showed that chloroprene emissions were still as much as 289 times the EPA's limit. In December, the levels reached more than 124 times the safety limit. Do you wish to comment?

As stated above, the 2010 Integrated Risk Information System Toxicological Review of Chloroprene suggested a revised Inhalation Unit Risk for chloroprene exposure for a 70-year lifetime, which makes it inappropriate to compare with instantaneous or daily average monitoring results. Furthermore, DPE is currently in compliance with its existing LDEQ permits under the current emission and ambient air quality standards for chloroprene. The currently applicable ambient air quality standard for chloroprene is 857 µg/m³, on an eight-hour basis. The 2010 IRIS study has been used to suggest an extremely low concentration as a potentially applicable standard, but this suggestion for chloroprene is not a standard or limit, and neither the EPA nor LDEQ have taken any action to create a new standard. DPE asserts that the 2010 study was based on incomplete and flawed data, and DPE began working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide additional information and correct the suggestion as soon as the company became aware of it after its publication in the 2011 National Air Toxics Assessment report in December 2015.

DPE and the EPA began monitoring ambient air at several locations near the facility in 2016, and the company will continue to do so to track the progress of its emissions reduction projects. Results have significantly been reduced since the emission reduction projects were installed. Additionally, they have always been and continue to remain well below established ambient air quality limits.

5) I mention in the story that Denka disputes the IRIS assessment and has twice requested that IRIS correct it. Do you want to elaborate on this?

The IRIS value for chloroprene was based on incomplete and flawed data, and DPE began working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide additional information and correct the suggestion as soon as the company became aware of it after its publication in the 2011 National Air Toxics Assessment report in December 2015. The company is currently engaged in a formal process with EPA and working toward ensuring assessments are based on sound science.

Scientific data from existing peer-reviewed studies, actual incidences of cancer in the surrounding area, and other information contradict the assessment and its implications.

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